

Minutes -- April 5, 2021 MCA Board Meeting

In Attendance:

S. Brazina, L. Nizin, M. Sobol, R. Prosten, I. Kushnir, E. Feldman, M. Weisberg, P. Sherman, L. Israelite, J. Simon, Binder, J. Margolis, W. Kargher, M. Kehila

Meeting called to order @ 8:32AM by President Les Nizin. Meeting conducted electronically via ZOOM.

President's report:

- President Nizin asks if there are any changes or corrections to **minutes** of the February 1, 2021 meeting as submitted by Prosten. Nizin moves adoption as submitted, second Binder. Document corrected to show that Israelite, not Feldman, reported that Federation will pick up future Zoom charges. Unanimous approval.

Treasurer's report:

- Ed Feldman moves adoption of **Treasurer's report** as distributed. Second Michael Sobol. Unanimous acceptance.
- **Budget.**
- Michael Sobol asks that the budget be integrated into future Treasurer's reports and that older data be eliminated. Nizin explains that he, and not Feldman, has been sending this material. Will not do so in future.
- Israelite asks that future pdf mailings be in landscape rather than portrait mode. Moves adoption. Israelite suggests budgetary estimates of future membership should be created by the membership committee. Also feels that we should consider eliminating subsidies and budgetary references to them.
- Lengthy discussion of above matters. Ed Feldman moves adoption of budget as presented. Second Sobol. Unanimous voice approval

Report of Membership Chair

- Larry Israelite reviews his previously distributed monthly report. No big changes, Membership down over 20%. Will forward corrected event attendance information to President Nizin.
- Discussion of "open" events vs. "members only". Israelite explains why our system enables non-members to register -- in fact, requires them to -- for events that are other than "members only".
- Steve Brazina wonders why attendance by non-members is an issue for live events. Israelite explains that there are over 1,800 names in our database, but only 576 of them are currently members, so their registrations cannot be blocked, although they can be manually checked after registration. Sobol declares that going forward we will be much stricter on who can attend. Also, most of the joint sponsorships that characterized this season will not repeat. Practice will be coming to an end.

Report of Member Participation Committee

- Larry Israelite presents slides that highlight distinctions between current membership year and renewal window vs. a committee proposal to convert to an "anniversary date" model -- switching all current members to an October 1 anniversary date (from current July 1), with all others having their actual date of joining as their date. He believes that the current system allows up to 21 months of membership for a single payment of dues.

- Israelite notes that this process will completely automate the system -- no human intervention. Largest problem identified so far -- we may be short of funds at the beginning of Federation fiscal year. Ira Kushnir thinks making all memberships expire simultaneously on October 1, would help activity leaders.
- President Nizin notes that we've gone to some lengths to coincide with the Federation fiscal year. Feldman suggests switching is not a problem for Federation, but could be for MCA with regard to date funds are transferred.
- Wayne Kargher wonders how event leaders (bocce, kayak, whatever) would be made aware of membership expirations. Israelite suggests that outdoor events (biking, pickleball, bocce, kayaking, etc.) are unique and should not be part of this discussion.

Les notes there are **two formulations** before Board

Proposition 1: Change system to automated, with new members having date of joining as yearly renewal date -- all current members would be October 1. Moved Nizin, second Brazina. Unanimous approval by show of hands.

Proposition 2: Changing dates that define membership year (as per above) and how many days (30 or 60) to correct membership situation. Committee recommends October 1 and a 30 day maximum grace period. Moved Weisberg, Kushnir second. Date change passed 10-4, 30 day grace period passes unanimously.

- Sobol moves **inviting members to pay processing fees** for memberships (3% -- \$3 in this case, based on \$90 dues). Second Israelite. At Nizin's suggestion, Sobol amends motion to extend the practice to all transactions involving credit cards. Sobol withdraws motion. Original motion (membership fees only) passes 10-3.

Report of Program Chair

- Michael Sobol reports plans for **December 1 comedy night** are moving forward. Should be able to report complete plans next month.
- Planning on **live events** after October 1.
- Proposal to start a **Great Decisions** group within MCA was discussed last month. Insufficient member interest. Will attempt again in future.
- Sobol notes **Federation Star ad** last two months --- was produced by Larry, Ira and Max in a way that allows us to measure response. There was zero response.
- **JFGN golf tournament** (Fed Cup, October 19, Lely) will be run by Les Nizin. Sobol moves MCA give \$1,000 to the event. Proceeds will be used to send needy children to summer camp. Sponsorship gets us flag signage at a hole/tee box, placement in a *Fed Star* ad and 2 golfers. Second Nizin. Unanimous approval.

Report of Doc Film & Luncheon Committee

- **MCA film collection** will be donated to Federation library.
- **Doc film** being shown at this time has 223 registrants.
- **Next lunch speaker is retired FBI agent**, He does not want to entertain any discussion of "politics" Les Nizin suggests including "**Innocence Project**" in future luncheon plans, but likely speakers live in Ireland. Brazina will pursue concept with the involved MCA member.

Report of Publicity Chair

Jeff Margolis notes that material for **May Federation Star** is due immediately.

- **President's report (resumed)**
- No change in **Federation policy on live events**. Committee is "working on it", but "no change" as of now.

Les notes that by-laws material was sent out very late due to circumstances beyond his control. Issues surrounding **membership year and renewal dates** have been discussed at length and resolved earlier today.

(Full disclosure --- the following issues were raised by the Secretary (me) in my role as a concerned board member. I've attempted to convey the issues raised and responses thereto in as limited and impartial a way as I could. YMMV)

Discussion of Article 2 -- disqualifying potential members. Committee withdraws proposal.

Prosten asks that after this discussion, a new proposed document be distributed so that we all know what we are discussing going forward. President says that will be the case.

Discussion of Article 2.3 "promulgated" vs. implemented

Discussion of **# of officers** to be elected -- Israelite explains that "given the roles they play and importance of these people, given their jobs and positions" "the membership has the right to choose these people". Feldman notes that the elected officers will have no more power or decision making authority than any other board member.

Removing V-P (presently 1st V-P) from election process and members. Under the proposed configuration, although the board is supposed to make all decisions and there is no "Executive Board", only a subset of the Board would choose the 1st V-P and potential President. Binder feels our election is not really an election (no multiple candidates), so it's not that important. Israelite maintains that the elected officers are best able to choose who should hold this position -- but not other positions.

Board Approval of New Board Members is the Board being asked to pass judgement on itself?

Election of Officers Article 3.4 -- add "in an election year" to clarify role of nominating committee at March & April membership meetings.

Paragraph 3.5 -- Term limits. Should be clarified. People can change titles/offices without changing "Roles". I was acting in the role of Secretary for a year before I was elected. When did my 4 year clock start? Are we saying that altering a person's title --- but not what he does (his "role") starts a new term limit clock?

Article 3.6 -- in board votes on malfeasance $\frac{2}{3}$ of what # is required? The full board? $\frac{2}{3}$ of those in the room?

Article 4.2 -- filling board vacancies (and officer vacancies) with board members/ General members ?

Article 5.4 -- a simple majority shall constitute a quorum. Is that 7? Why not specify?

Article 5.5 -- President shall present all matters requiring discussion and a vote -- what is getting carved out? Les would rather identify what does not require discussion and voting.

Article 7.2 --- 3rd paragraph. Change raised to altered/adjusted ? Larry Israelite says the date also needs to be changed to conform to membership renewal scheme changed earlier today.

Article 7.3 -- typo? Appears that "by the" was left out.

Article 8 -- substitute can for shall as 3rd word. May is suggested

Article 9 -- Effective date. Time did not permit full discussion. To be continued.

Meeting adjourned at 11:07 AM

Next Meeting May 3 @ 8:30 AM

Richard Prosten
Secretary